Library

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR.....1965

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B.,Ch.B.,B.Pharm.,D.P.H.
holding appointments of:-
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer..)
School Medical Officer.....) 5/11th of the time.

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District

Blandford Rural District..... ..½ day per week
Borough of Blandford Forum..... ¼ day per week
Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C..... 1½ days per week
Wimborne Minster Urban District..... 1/3rd day per week.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor:-

G.S.C. Udall, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.F.S(Eng.)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

M. Stockley, Cert.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1965

CHAIRMAN.....Councillor E.K. Hooper

VICE-CHAIRMAN.....Councillor J.F. Brown

COUNCILLORS:-

K.R. Browning

A.C. Davis

F.W. Eyles

P.L. Farquharson

D.W. Keen

F.H.B. Mainwaring Burton

C.B.C. Roe

S.R. Stenning

W.J. Thorne

N.D. Vincent

Major G.T. Wright

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne Minster.
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1965.

The list of notifiable diseases showed no unusual features. Two new cases of tuberculosis were added to the list, one an Army patient, the other non-pulmonary. The typical pattern of tuberculosis was well shewn in that the only deaths were in one middle aged male and one elderly male. Several cases were removed from the register as cured or left the district, yielding an overall reduction of six cases since 1964.

The lung cancer mortality needs comment, having attained the grisly record figure for 1962, six, and even more unusual in that the female deaths equalled the male. This is undoubtedly a chance fluctuation assuming unusual prominence within the context of low figures, but even so the national trend is all too obvious in the rural district's figures which are set out below:-

Deaths from Lung Cancer-
Blandford Rural District.

	Male.	Female.
1965	3	3
1964	2	-
1963	5	-
1962	6	-
1961	2	-
1960	1	1
1959	-	1
1958	5	-
1957	2	-
1956	2	-
1955	3	1

Prevention is widely acknowledged, though without much /

enthusiasm, to be better than cure, but in practice the great majority of people think it is the next man who needs to take steps, not themselves. Hence many of us continue to smoke, or to eat too much, or to take too little exercise, all of which habits lead to Father Time putting in unpaid overtime with the scythe. If only he would join the union! In the meantime, the annual effort to interest the schoolchildren in prolonging their lives by not taking to smoking was maintained. There is a body of opinion which maintains that health education for school children is overdue for reform and expansion.

In the sphere of housing there was a steady advancement towards the realisation of major plans laid down in 1964. Eight flatlets for old people in Tarrant Rushton were completed and occupied. The Stourpaine scheme for eighteen large flats was also completed, two being occupied by old people. The Winterborne Stickland plans for fifteen old persons' flatlets with communal room and warden's accommodation were awaiting approval and ready to go ahead. The Blandford St. Mary scheme for 29 old persons' flatlets had been furthered in the planning stage but not finalised. A small scheme for three old peoples bungalows at Winterborne Kingston was awaiting commencement by the end of the year. Six old persons bungalows at Pimperne were adapted for a part time warden's service and a call bell system installed, and proposals for treating similarly the existing old persons dwellings at Winterborne Kingston were approved.

Although very substantial provision has been made, and additionally planned, for old people there seems not the smallest foreseeable risk at the moment of overdoing this type of provision.

F. B. Hoffman

MAY, 1965. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres.....61,717

Population as estimated by Registrar General (mid-year).12,080

Rateable value at 1st April, 1965.....£302,048

Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1965..... £1,165

Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31/12/65. 3,277

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female	Comparative Statistics: Bland-ford Rural	England & Wales	Administra-tive County
Total number registered	210	97	113			
Legitimate.....	201	92	109			
Illegitimate.....	9	5	4			
STANDARDISED RATE.....			.....	21	18	18

STILLBIRTHS

Total registered..... NIL

DEATHS	Total	Male	Female	Bland-ford Rural	England & Wales	Administra-tive County
Total registered.....	113	59	54			
Standardised Rate				10.9	11.5	10.2

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Births.....1·22
Deaths.....1·17

SECTION A

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory is situated in Dorchester and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Dorset County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic fortnightly, held in the attractive modern clinic in Blandford where other services are also grouped, including the school dental service for the area, speech therapy, audiometry, family planning, special examinations, cervical cytology, ante natal classes and home help. The registrar of births and deaths attends this clinic three times weekly.

HOME HELP SERVICE

A local organiser attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service and attends the new health clinic from 9 to 9.30 a.m. during weekdays.

SECTION B

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	37
Tuberculosis	2
Pneumonia	11
Whooping Cough	2
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	3
Food poisoning	3

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
Males	14	Males	3
Females	10	Females	2

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT

SECTION C

STATISTICAL TABLES.....1965

CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	3	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....		2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	7	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	10	12
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	17	5
20. Other heart disease.....	4	11
21. Other circulatory disease.....	2	3
23. Pneumonia.....	3	2
24. Bronchitis.....	2	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	2	2
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	3	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-
34. All other accidents.....	2	1
35. Suicide.....	1	1
TOTAL	59	54

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

No action was necessary.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS

Poliomyelitis ORAL		SALK		Diphtheria		Tetanus		Whooping Cough		Smallpox	
Basic Course	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
169	179	14	5	185	166	193	183	180	68	125	23

P = Primary course
R = Reinforcing dose

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(1) FOOD HYGIENE

Most of the food premises were visited during the year, mainly to distribute posters and handbook on Food Hygiene. The number of visits to Food premises dropped from 162 to 118.

Four cases of food poisoning were investigated, but each was concerned with single persons and no causative agent was disclosed. No suspected food was discovered.

(2) Factories.

The number of visits to factories rose from 18 in 1964 to 29 in 1965.

No cases of infringement of the Factories Act were discovered. The number of factories on the register also increased during the year to 39.

(i) Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health:-

	No. on Register.	Insps.	No. of Written Notices.	Occprs Prose-cuted.
(a) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities.....	39	29	-	-
(b) Factories included in (a) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.....	12	12	-	-
(c) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).....	-	-	-	-
	51	41	-	-

(ii) No cases of defects were found in the following:-

Want of cleanliness. (S.1)
Overcrowding (S.2)
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)

(3) Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act.

During the year the premises registered under the Act to date were visited. Minor matters which came to light on inspection were put right after consultation with the Occupiers.

At theCouncil Offices, satisfactory washing accommodation was provided for the outside staff and hot water was shortly to be provided in ladies and gentlemans toilets in the offices.

4. RIVERS POLLUTION AND LAND DRAINAGE ACT 1961

Pollution of a stream at Spetisbury was found to be caused by the discharge of sewage effluent from a septic tank. The owners of the septic tank, which served six houses, willingly installed a properly designed bacteriological filter and thus prevented further trouble. No causes of serious flooding occurred during the year. Although the annual springs broke through with a heavy flow in the Autumn, there were not as many visits under this head as in previous years.

5. REFUSE.

The Council's present tipping arrangements at Winterborne Kingston and Farnham are still functioning satisfactorily, and every effort is being made to keep them open until Stourpaine Refuse Tip is ready. Covering material is being stock-piled at Winterborne Kingston tip in readiness for use on the tip when it is no longer needed. The County Roads and Bridges Department have helped considerably in this respect.

The opening of the Stourpaine Tip has been delayed due to difficulty on the question of access off the main Shaftesbury Road. Tenders for road works, fencing, storage and water main have been accepted.

6. WATER SUPPLIES.

During the early part of the year, the unsatisfactory Bryanston supply was closed down and the supply taken over from the Black Lane source. No further complaints were received from this area.

It has now been agreed that the Thornicombe area shall be supplied from Charlton Marshall; at the end of the year pipes had been delivered in the area, ready for an early start in 1966.

The proportion of unsatisfactory water samples from private sources fell from 28% to 18%.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Totals.
Water Board supplies.....	2	-	2
Private supplies and wells.....	35	8	43
	37	8	45

7. SEWERAGE.

Work on the Durweston/Stourpaine Joint Sewerage Scheme was started early in the year and good steady progress was made throughout the year, despite setbacks due to bad weather and ground water.

Plans are being drawn up for the sewerage of the Letton group of cottages, above Black Lane Borehole. This is not a straight forward scheme, however, as it is now intended to drain Pimperne through the Valley to Blandford, picking up Letton en route. Negotiations with the Blandford Borough Council to accept this sewage are now proceeding.

There were numerous complaints from the Charlton Marshall area, where it has been found that septic tanks are not filtering away underground as was expected. It has now been recommended that the Council should not permit any further large development in this area until satisfactory sewerage arrangements can be made.

Parish	Total houses.	Council Houses.	On Mains Water.	On Private Water	Sewer.	Cess-pool	Earth Closet.
Anderson	23	-	23	-	-	21	2
Blandford St. Mary	145	52	141	4	122	20	3
Bryanston	119	44	119	-	88	27	4
Charlton Marshall	278	41	247	31	41	195	42
Chettle	37	-	37	-	-	36	1
Durweston	107	28	101	6	30	58	19
Farnham	65	9	65	-	9	32	24
Iwerne Courtney	137	24	137	-	126	10	1
Hilton	139	24	111	28	24	89	26
Langton Long	90	-	90	-	51	38	1
Milborne	220	92	220	-	205	8	7
Milton Abbas	201	44	200	1	157	40	4
Pimperne	425	45	419	6	402	17	6
Spetisbury	155	10	143	12	11	118	26
Stepleton	12	-	12	-	-	12	-
Stourpaine	185	70	153	32	70	99	16
Tarrant Crawford	11	2	11	-	-	10	1
Tarrant Gunville	93	8	88	5	26	32	35
Tarrant Hinton	62	14	46	16	14	46	2
Tarrant Keyneston	73	12	70	3	12	57	4
Tarrant Launceston	26	4	26	-	-	25	1
Tarrant Monkton	40	-	40	-	-	40	-
Tarrant Rawston	18	4	18	-	-	18	-
Tarrant Rushton	45	8	41	4	-	40	5
Turnworth	25	-	25	-	-	12	13
Winterborne Clenston	22	-	21	1	-	20	2
Winterborne Houghton	55	-	43	12	-	39	16
Winterborne Kingston	129	45	117	12	45	62	22
Winterborne Stickland	161	46	159	2	46	96	19
Winterborne Whitechurch	140	27	128	12	19	69	52
Winterborne Zelston	39	-	39	-	-	37	2
	3277	653	3090	187	1498	1423	356

8. COMPLAINTS.

There was a considerable drop in the number of complaints (from 133 in 1964 to 54 in 1965). The majority of these were from Charlton Marshall area regarding drainage from septic tanks. No statutory notices were served to abate nuisances but appropriate action was taken under the Housing Acts and Town and Country Planning Acts. Informal advice helped to clear most of the other complaints.

Table of Complaints.

Housing	11
Flooding	8
Drainage	15
Pollution of Rivers	4
Keeping of Animals	5
Noxious smells	1
Refuse	4
Manure	2
Noise	3
Sale of Crayons	1
	54

9.

SALVAGE.

The sale of salvage material showed a marked increase over recent years and was the best since 1959. The use of the larger vehicle has enabled the workmen to find more time for baling and sorting of scrap and the returns have risen as a result.

Waste paper	£151. 1.0
Rags mixed	£ 13. 8.9
Non-ferrous metals	£ 22.19.10
Scrap iron	£ 38. 8.9
	£225.18.4d

10. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

During the wet weather conditions,which prevailed throughout most of the year, Survey work was difficult although rodent life remained much as in previous years. Baits, however, appeared to be taken more readily and with quicker results.

One noticeable feature was the greater incidence of field mice found in buildings.

The work carried out was:-

Number of premises surveyed	948
Treatments carried out	216
Major infestations found. Rats	4
Mice	18
Properties infested	186
	1372

11. HOUSING.

New houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority.
(a) With State assistance for rehousing.....:--- -
(b) With State assistance for other purposes....:--- -
(c) Without State assistance.....:--- -

(2) By other persons:-
(a) With State assistance.....:--- -
(b) Without State assistance.....:--- 58

New houses commenced during the year but not completed:-:---
(a) By Local Authority.....:--- 26
(b) By other persons.....:--- 54

Housing Inspections:-

(1) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects. :--- 48

(2) Total number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation :--- 5

(3) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation..... :--- 43

Housing Action:-

(1) Number of dwellings rendered fit after informal action :--- 36
(2) Number of statutory notices served..... :--- -

(3) Number of statutory notices complied with..... :-- -

(4) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders made..... :--- 4
(5) Number of houses in respect of which Undertaking accepted..... :--- 1
(6) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... :--- 5
(7) Number of houses demolished otherwise..... :---- 5

Houses Demolished:-
Austin's Cottage, Winterborne Zelston
4 and 5 Priory Terrace, Pimperne.
Clippetts, Winterborne Kingston
Two adjoining Clippetts, Winterborne Kingston
Yew Tree Cottage, Winterborne Whitechurch
Cottage, Frogmore, Winterborne Whitechurch
45 and 47, Pimperne.

Properties on which Demolition Orders made (notnecessarily during 1965 and not complied with:-
2 cottages Long Close, Milton Abbas. Void.
Cottage, Church Hill, Milborne..... Void.
Cottage (Tenant-Biles) Little England,Milborne.
Numbers 45,46 and 47 Spetisbury.
Rectory View Cottage, Chalky Path, Winterborne Stickland.

SUMMARY OF VISITS:-

Nuisances and Complaints	54
Housing Acts	325
Food Premises	118
Water Supplies	38
Water Samples	46
Refuse and Salvage	99
Factories and Workshops	29
River Pollution	13
Infestations	1
Caravans	36
Miscellaneous	19
Keeping of Animals	4
Food Poisoning	10
Infectious Diseases	2
Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act	30
Scrap Metal Merchants	5
	829
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1330
Visits as Surveyor	2457